

Communicable Disease Center
Enteric Bacteriology Laboratories
P. O. Box 185
Chamblee, Georgia

November 4, 1952

Dr. Perry W. Wilson, Editor
Bacteriological Reviews
Society of American Bacteriologists
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Wilson:

In answer to your letter of October 28 regarding a tentative outline for a review article on variation in Salmonella, it seems to us that it would be desirable to describe briefly the variations to which Salmonella normally are subject. These could be classified as follows:

S-R variation
O-H variation
O-K variation (V-W and O-M variation)
Form variation
Phase variation

It should be necessary only to mention the first two items. Remarks concerning the latter three items could be expanded somewhat. It is really surprising how few people understand these phenomena.

After the above-mentioned subjects were discussed it probably would be apropos to discuss:

Induced O variation
Induced H variation

1. Variations induced through use of serums.
2. Natural occurrence of "induced" variants.
3. Variations induced through use of filterable agents.

There is enough published material to cover all the subjects mentioned above except the last-mentioned. I do not know how far we can go with this, since I do not know how much material Dr. Lederberg would feel justified in allowing us to use. This naturally would depend upon the status of his publications. We are at present engaged in some work for him and the results will surprise him, as they have surprised us. They are falling into a very nice pattern and I hope to write him about them in the very near future.

You will note that we have avoided completely the mention of nutritional variants. These have been covered amply by Lederberg and he is much better informed on these variants and their genetic significance than we. I would not care to go into that field.

For the Officer-in-Charge, Bacteriology Section

Sincerely yours,

PRE:mg

Philip R. Edwards, Ph. D.
Bacteriologist-in-Charge
Enteric Bacteriology Unit

cc: Dr. J. Lederberg ✓

*I'm sorry the report on your cultures has been
held up so long - they're much nicer than you
realized. We want to be very sure of a couple
of things before we report them. I hope
it won't be too long and I think you
will be delighted to hear!*

P. R. E.